Reactors for nuclear power generation in addition to the presently operating pressurized heavy water reactors;

(b) if so, the details of their number, the power capacity and the schedules for implementation;

(c) whether Government have plans for upscaling the present design of 500 MW power capacity of the Fast Breeder Reactors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) One 500 MWe Fast Breeder Reactor is under construction at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. It is scheduled to attain criticality in September 2010 and commence commercial operation 6 months thereafter.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The present approach is to achieve economic advantage of construction of a series of 500 MWe reactors and subsequent to that embark on the construction of 1000 MWe Fast Breeders. The Department of Atomic Energy has plans to build 4 more FBRs of 500 MWe capacity by the year 2020. Construction of 1000 MWe Fast Breeder Reactors will commence after 2020.

Power Generation from Atomic Power

2219. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the States in which sites for power generation from Atomic Energy have been identified during the year 2001-04;

(b) whether any site has been identified in the State of Madhya Pradesh also, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if any, site has been identified in Madhya Pradesh, the funds provided to the State for power generation from atomic energy since the year 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) With a view to evaluate sites for setting up future nuclear power plants in the country, the Site Selection Committee (SSC) of the Department of Atomic Energy has, as a first step of the site

selection process, evaluated sites in different States of the country. After evaluation of sites by SSC, the clearances of the sites on environmental angle from Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) and on safety angle from Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) are obtained before proposals in this regard are put up for consideration by the Government.

(b) The SSC has, during the period 2001-04, evaluated sites in different States, including Madhya Pradesh, for setting up Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) in future, based on the details forwarded by the State Governments. With regard to setting up of NPPs at inland sites (as in the case with Madhya Pradesh) in the near future, priority is to fully utilize the potential of existing sites so that the available infrastructure can be used, large rehabilitation of population is avoided and NPPs are set up in least possible time.

(c) The nuclear power stations are Central Sector Projects and accordingly all funds for nuclear power generation are provided to the Department of Atomic Energy and not to the respective States.

New Atomic Power Plants

2220. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pelsed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the wake of success of peace process initiated for cordial relations with neighbouring countries, the chances of use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes have brightened;

(b) if so, the quantity of atomic energy likely to be made available for use in medical purposes and production of power; and

(c) the details of new atomic power plant likely to be established in the near future, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) India is committed to the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. India's efforts to improve relations with its neighbouring countries stand on their own and are not linked to efforts to increase the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

(b) In the medical field, radioisotopes are used for various medical treatments, such as diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Medical